Archie ADVENTURE SERIES
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SEGA

KNUCKLES™

THE ECHIDNA

PENDERS • SPAZIANTE • GALAN
GROSSMAN • WILLIAMS • PEPOY

KNUCKLES™ THE ECHIDNA

BOOK FOUR

LOST PARADISE

PART ONE OF THREE

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HAVING SURVIVED HIS INITIAL ENCOUNTER WITH THE DARK LEGION, A GROUP OF TECHNOLOGICALLY ADVANCED ECHIDNA RENEGADES, KNUCKLES BEGINS TO TAKE A GREATER INTEREST IN HIS HISTORY, HIS HERITAGE AND ITS ACCOMPANYING RESPONSIBILITIES.

SINCE LEARNING THAT HIS ANCESTORS WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR SAVING THE FLOATING ISLAND FORM CERTAIN DISASTER, AND SOME RESPONSIBLE FOR PLACING BOTH IT AND THEIR PEOPLE IN THE GREATEST OF JEOPARDY, KNUCKLES' HAS BEGUN TO QUESTION WHAT HE HAS BEEN TAUGHT, AND NOW SEEKS THAT RAREST OF ALL TREASURES... THE TRUTH!

ITS OUT THERE, SOMEWHERE, WAITING TO BE FOUND IN PLACES ONE WOULD NEVER SUSPECT...

UNDER THE STREAM--DOWN HERE IT'S BETTER-- TAKE IT FROM ME...

WHOA! WHAT WAS THAT ?

THOSE *SHADOWS* I'M SCOPIN' NEAR THE RIVERBANK COULD BE *TROUBLE* !

YO...YO...YO!

LOOK WHAT JUST DROPPED IN !

AND I *DON'T* THINK HE'S GOT THE SKINNY ON ME YET !

SURPRISE IS MINE...

--IT'S TIME TO GET BUSY!

YOU PICKED THE WRONG CROC TO STEP TO, BRO'!

YOU'VE GOT THAT BACKWARDS, YOU CRETINOUS CROC!

IT'S YOU WHO HASN'T A CLUE--

THE PHANTOM CITY

-- OF *WHOM* YOU'RE DEALING WITH!

NICE MOVE!

WHOOOOSH!

BUT I'M JUST GETTIN' MY GROOVE ON!

WRONG!

K-THUNK!

WHIIIIP!

I'M *THROUGH* WITH THE *SQUARE* DANCING!

I'VE GOT OTHER *ECHIDNA* TO FRY!

NEXT TIME, LEAD WITH YOUR *LEFT*--

CHUMP!

NOT VERY FAR AWAY, WE FIND EVERYONE'S FAVORITE ECHIDNA IN PURSUIT OF KNOWLEDGE AND ENLIGHTENMENT...

AWWW-- HMMMMMMM...

AWWW-- HMMMMMMM...

AWWW-- HMMMMMMM...

AWWW-- HMMMMMMM...

I WISH YOU TOOK YOUR *MEDITATION* TRAINING MORE SERIOUSLY, KNUCKLES!

IT'S A LOAD OF MYSTIC *MUMBO-JUMBO* THAT HASN'T ANY BENEFITS I CAN SEE!

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT IS NOT SOMETHING THAT OCCURS WHEN--

HOLD!

ARCHY, WHAT'S GOING ON?

ENEMY APPROACHING DIRECTLY FROM *BEHIND!*

WHEN I GIVE THE WORD--

STRIKE!
WHAAK!
OOMPH!!
I WAS WONDERING WHEN YOU *GUYS* WERE GOING TO *CRAWL* OUT OF THE WOODWORK!
SPEAK FOR YOURSELF!
WHAAM!
YOU'RE *ALL* SO TYPICAL!
YOU THINK YOU'RE SUCH *HOT* STUFF!
WELL, LET ME TELL YOU--
WHAAP!
YOU GOT THAT *BACKWARDS*!
WHAAK!
NOBODY ATTACKS ME ON *MY* TURF, AND GETS AWAY WITH IT!
YOU'RE GOING DOWN, *PUNK*!
YOU THINK YOU'RE ECHIDNA ENOUGH TO DO IT?

MORE THAN ENOUGH FOR YOU!

IN YOUR DREAMS!

NO BRAG--

JUST FACT!

OOMPH!!

YOU'VE GOT SOME EXPLAINING TO DO--

--BOY?

GUESS AGAIN!

YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO GET IT RIGHT THIS TIME!

SUCKER!

POK!

YOU MEN ARE ALL ALIKE!

ALWAYS FALLING FOR A PRETTY FACE!

ACTUALLY, I THOUGHT IT WAS A NEAT MOVE ON YOUR PART--

--USING THE ELEMENT OF SURPRISE!

OOOW!

FA-VOOOSHH

THANKS, ARCHY! I OWE YOU!

NOW THEN, WHATEVER YOUR NAME IS--

WHAT'S WITH THE SNEAK ATTACK--

--AND WHERE'S THE REST OF KRAGOK'S THUGS, FEMALE?*

THE NAME IS JULIE-SU, AND I DON'T KNOW WHERE THEY ARE!

YOU EXPECT US TO BELIEVE THAT?

KNUCKLES ARCHIVES VOL 1 *

"KRAGOK WAS SO PARANOID ABOUT YOU LEARNING WHAT THE WHOLE DEAL WAS, THAT HE ACTIVATED THE SELF-DESTRUCT SEQUENCE!"

"I WAS ALL SET TO LEAVE, WHEN AT THE LAST MOMENT, I SAW YOU RUNNING PAST."

"I TRIED TO FOLLOW, BUT THINGS GOT CRAZY, AND IT WAS ALL I COULD DO JUST TO GET OUT ALIVE."

THE FUNNY THING IS--

I WANTED TO REJOIN THE LEGION--

--BUT I JUST CAN'T. IT'S BEEN LIKE SOMEONE FORCING THEIR WILL OVER MINE!

I HAD TO FIND YOU!

I JUST DON'T KNOW WHY!

UH-OH!

THERE SHE IS!

THERE'S THE WITCH!

YEAH? WELL, I'VE HEARD A LOT OF-- EH?

LET'S TRY THAT AGAIN, GIRLFRIEND, AND SEE HOW FAR YOU CAN KICK IT THIS TIME!!

I SEE YOU MAKE FRIENDS EASY!

THERE'S A NAME FOR PUNKS LIKE YOU--

VECTOR! CAN YOU JUST CHILL!?!

YOU WERE THE ONE WHO JUMPED ME, REMEMBER?!

WE DIDN'T RACE OVER HERE FOR YOU TO SETTLE A GRUDGE!

SO, WHY DID YOU GUYS RACE OVER HERE, ESPY?

I FOUND OUR CROC FRIEND RECOVERING FROM HIS MEETING WITH HIS NEW FRIEND THERE--

--WHEN SOMETHING STRANGE HAPPENED IN THE MARBLE ZONE!*

*HOW MANY OF YOU REMEMBERED THAT VECTOR LIVES ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE MARBLE ZONE?-- EDITOR

WE EXPERIENCED SOME MAJOR DISTURBANCES--

--LIKE THE GROUND WAS SHAKING, KID!

SHAKING?!!

YEAH! IT FELT LIKE *EVERYTHING* WAS GOING TO *SPLIT* APART!

IF THAT'S SO--

--WHY *DIDN'T* WE *FEEL* ANYTHING LIKE THAT *HERE*?

THIS IS A PRETTY *BIG* ISLAND, KNUCKLES!

A WORLD UNTO ITSELF!

STILL, THERE'S NO TELLING THAT WHATEVER IT WAS DOESN'T POSE A *THREAT* TO US!

MAYBE IT'S MY *FORMER* COMRADES--*TESTING* A NEW *DEVICE* OF SOME SORT!

THAT *ZOOT SUIT* YOU'RE WEARING DON'T LOOK TOO FORMER TO ME!

POINT FOR *VECTOR*--BUT SHE'S POINTING IN THE *SAME* DIRECTION ALSO!

I WAS NEVER WILD ABOUT THE STYLE ANYWAY!

IT'LL TAKE *MORE* THAN THAT TO CONVINCE ME THAT--

GIVE HER A *CHANCE*, VECTOR!

I'M SURE IF WE GIVE HER ENOUGH *ROPE*, SHE'S BOUND TO *HANG* HERSELF!

YOU HAVE THAT *BACKWARDS*, KNUCKLES--

--IT'S YOUR GOOSE THAT'S BEING COOKED.

NOT TO MENTION MINE--

--THAT I DIDN'T *FORESEE* THIS!

LISTEN UP, EVERYONE--

--THIS IS THE *GAME PLAN!* *ARCHIMEDES* AND I WILL CHECK THINGS OUT--

--WHILE YOU GUYS HANG BACK AND WAIT FOR MY *SIGNAL* IF THINGS GET OUT OF CONTROL!

YOU DON'T THINK YOU'RE LEAVING ME *BEHIND*, DO YOU?

THAT'S THE *TROUBLE* WITH *YOU* GUYS--

--ALWAYS THINKING YOU *KNOW* WHAT'S *BEST* FOR EVERYONE!

ALRIGHT, ALREADY!!

YOU *CAN* COME! YOU CAN *COME*!

THEN AGAIN, NOTHING *EVER* PREPARED ME FOR *LARA-LE*, EITHER!

I *DON'T* LIKE THIS, LOCKE--

THIS APPEARS TO HAVE *DISASTER* WRITTEN ALL OVER IT!

YOU MAY BE RIGHT, SIR--

--WHICH IS WHY WE'LL HAVE TO BE READY FOR *ANYTHING*-- AS USUAL!

WE'VE BEEN WALKING FOR *HOURS*, ARCHY--

--AND NOT A *TREMOR*!

NOR ANY SIGN OF--

--*YOUR* PEOPLE?

LOOK, BUB, YOU WANT MY *HELP* OR NOT?!

I DON'T RECALL *ASKING* FOR IT!

HOO BOY!

YE-OOW!!!

HEEEEY!

WHAT TH--?

CAN THAT BE--?

I DON'T LIKE THIS! I DON'T LIKE THIS AT ALL!

ALL OUR CAREFUL *PLANNING*--UP IN SMOKE--JUST LIKE THAT!

MAYBE *NOT*! *ARCHIMEDES* IS THERE! LET'S SEE HOW IT *PLAYS* OUT!

WAITAMINUTE!

WHERE'D IT GO?!

MY *EYES* MUST BE GOING *BONKERS*! IT'S *BACK* AGAIN!

JULIE-SU, SO HELP ME, IF THIS IS SOME *DARK LEGION* TRICK--

WHY DON'T YOU *BLAME* ME FOR *EVERYTHING ELSE* WHILE YOU'RE AT IT!

WE CAN *BICKER* LATER, CHILDREN!

WE WON'T FIND OUT ANYTHING BY *STAYING* PUT--

--SO LET'S GO!

I JUST HOPE YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING, OLD FRIEND!

THIS CAN ONLY BE--

ECHIDNAOPOLIS!

WILD!

ABSOLUTELY WILD!

BUT HOW CAN THIS BE?

I THOUGHT IT EXISTED ONLY IN STORIES MY FATHER TOLD ME!

IT'S A LONG STORY, KNUCKLES--

--BUT THAT IS INDEED THE FABLED CITY OF YOUR ORIGINS!

IT'S MORE INCREDIBLE THAN I EVER IMAGINED!

NOBODY'S EVEN PAYING ATTENTION TO US!

ARE WE JUST GHOSTS TO THEM, AS WELL?

KNUCKLES! IS THAT YOU?

WHA--?!! WHOZZAT?!!

I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT A *SON* WOULDN'T RECOGNIZE HIS OWN MOTHER.

M-MOTHER?!

I CAN SEE I'M LOOKING AT *MAJOR* DAMAGE CONTROL HERE!

I REALIZE IT'S BEEN A WHILE, KNUCKLES--

--BUT DO YOU THINK YOU CAN GIVE ME A *HUG*?

I DON'T--KNOW WHAT TO *SAY*!

I *THOUGHT* YOU WERE *DEAD*!

DID YOUR *FATHER* TELL YOU THAT? I WOULD'VE THOUGHT HE'D HANDLE THINGS *BETTER*!

NOT REALLY, NO!

HE JUST SAID--YOU WERE *GONE*!

MY FATHER WAS THE *ONLY* ECHIDNA I'D EVER *KNOWN* UNTIL RECENTLY.

I *NEVER* THOUGHT TO QUESTION HIM ABOUT IT *BEFORE*!

NOW, I DON'T--

WAIT!

WHAT'S HAPPENING?!!

THE CITY!! IT'S GONE!!!

WHERE IS IT?!!

GOOD QUESTION-- BUT I HAVEN'T A CLUE!

I THINK I KNOW WHO DOES!

UH-OH!

I'M BETTING YOU KNOW, ARCHY!

I'LL BET YOU KNOW EVERYTHING-- WHAT THE DEAL IS WITH MY PARENTS--WHY I HAVEN'T SEEN OTHER ECHIDNAS UNTIL RECENTLY--

KNUCKLES, PLEASE--

DON'T ASK!

YOU'RE NOT READY TO KNOW!

--EVEN WHY I'M KEPT IN THE DARK ABOUT IT ALL!

YEAH?

WHO SAID SO? YOU? MY FATHER?

KNUC--

UGGH!

KRAKAH KHOOM!

KRA-KHUUM!

GRRR-DUNNGE!

GOTCHA!

THAT'S ONE YOU OWE ME!

SAYS YOU!

KNUCKLES, MY BOY--

--NOW IS *NOT* THE TIME TO *ARGUE* WITH THE LADY!

AT LEAST ONE OF YOU HAS A LICK OF *COMMON SENSE!*

I COULD'VE SAVED MYSELF, Y'KNOW!

YOU WERE JUST A SPLIT SECOND *QUICKER*, THAT'S ALL!

IS HE *ALWAYS* LIKE THIS?

HE'S ACTUALLY GOTTEN *BETTER!*

WHAT WAS TH-- ?!!

UN-REAL!

KRA-KAHLLMM!

SHOCK WAVE!

ECHIDNAOPOLIS IS RETURNING!!

FOLLOW ME! IT'S TIME WE GOT SOME *ANSWERS!*

C'MON!

INCREDIBLE!

EVERYONE'S IN A *PANIC!*

WE *NEED* TO TALK WITH *SOMEONE!*

YOU, SIR!

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE? *WHY* IS EVERYONE SO UPSET?

WHERE YOU BEEN, FELLA? IT'S THE *END* OF *OUR* WORLD!

WE WERE WARNED OF *JUDGEMENT DAY--*

--AND NOW IT'S *HERE!*

LET ME GO!

I HAVE TO JOIN MY WIFE AND CHILD!

THIS IS GETTING US *NOWHERE!*

LET'S GO FIND MY *MOTHER!* AT LEAST SHE MIGHT HAVE A *CLUE!*

PERHAPS--BUT WILL WE *FIND* HER IN TIME?

WE *HAVE* TO--NO TWO WAYS ABOUT IT!

AT LEAST *SHE'LL* TELL ME WHAT SHE *KNOWS*--

--UNLIKE CERTAIN *FIRE-ANTS* I KNOW!

JUST ONCE, I WISH YOU'D *LEVEL* WITH ME!

I DO--WHEN I *CAN*!

I THINK I'VE *FOUND* SOMETHING!

HYPER ZONE PROJECTOR?

THAT'S GOTTA BE IT!

WHATEVER IS HAPPENING, WE HAVE TO FIND OUT WHAT HAPPENED TO *HAWKING* AND HIS *PROJECTOR* FOR OUR ANSWERS!

IF *ANYONE* HAS ANY ANSWERS TO PROVIDE--

In Gratitude to our Guardian HAWKING Creator of the Hyper Zone Projector Our Civilization Endures Because Of him

--YOU THREE HAD BETTER COME UP WITH SOME PRETTY QUICK!

TO BE CONTINUED...
(AS IF YOU COULDN'T GUESS!)